



Crop Progress and Condition

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Agricultural News (January): After a warmer than normal December, Kentucky experienced near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation during the month of January. Based on preliminary data at the Ag Weather Center, this past month would place in the top 20 driest January's since 1895. The dry conditions pushed Kentucky to a third straight month of seeing below normal precipitation. As a result, the US Drought Monitor expanded Moderate Drought into Central Kentucky, along with nearly 70% of the state now seeing abnormally dry conditions.

Precipitation for the month averaged 1.94 inches, 1.79 inches below normal. Precipitation totals by climate division, West 2.32 inches, Central 1.74 inches, Bluegrass 1.64 inches and East 2.05 inches, which was 1.61, 2.25, 1.58 and 1.74 inches below normal respectively. Temperatures for the period averaged 33 degrees, near normal. High temperatures averaged from 42 in the West to 42 in the East. Low temperatures averaged from 26 degrees in the West to 25 degrees in the East.

Tobacco producers continued to strip the remaining crop in the barn when conditions allowed. Some growers who harvested late were experiencing quality issues with tobacco that froze in the barn. The amount of tobacco stripped was 90 percent. The condition of winter wheat was reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Some producers have begun topdressing wheat.

Most producers feel hay supplies are adequate. However, for producers looking for additional supplies, quality hay may be in short supply. Hay and roughage supplies were reported as 1 percent very short, 17 percent short, 75 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Livestock are generally in good body condition. However, freeze and thaw conditions have been stressful. The condition of livestock were reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Producers marketed their grain and tobacco crops and attended various commodity meetings across the state. Farmers were busy performing routine equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming planting season.